

I am personally offended by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election illustrates the dangers of media consolidation. I find this incredibly offensive. Much more pervasive and insulting than any of the current "censored" words spoken on the media or such items as Janet Jackson's "mistake".

The anti Kerry broadcast is not a documentary. It is a political commercial and should be designated so. The Sinclair group should be fined heavily and penalized heavily for breaking the federal election laws. They are not above the laws and should be charged immediately.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.